



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

1301 CONSTITUTION AVE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

**CASE #:** 01-HQ-2018-ADM-0039      **CROSS REFERENCE #:**

**TITLE:** ALLEGATION OF INAPPROPRIATE LOBBYING

**INTERVIEWEE (if applicable):** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**PREPARED BY:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**MEMORANDUM OF ACTIVITY  
INTERVIEW**

**NARRATIVE:**

On April 12, 2018, Special Agents (SA) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Office of Inspector General (OIG), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) OI, OIG, EPA, conducted the interview of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA. The interview was in reference to a fact finding inquiry pursuant to a Congressional request to "develop a comprehensive factual record for instances where possible violations of the Antideficiency Act and the publicity or propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CSA) of 2017, may have occurred, during an April 2017 meeting between Administrator Pruitt and the National Mining Association."

Prior to commencing the interview, OIG agents introduced themselves to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) presented their EPA OIG law enforcement credentials for review, and explained the nature of the interview. (b) (6), (b) (7) provided the following information in sum and non-verbatim:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE:** 01-HQ-2018-ADM-  
0039

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**DATE OF ACTIVITY:**  
4/12/2018

**DRAFTED DATE:** 4/13/2018

**AGENT:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Page 1 of 3

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

When asked about if (b) (6) attended Administrator Pruitt's meeting with the National Miners Association in Naples, FL on April 24, 2017, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) responded, "yes, I was there for the majority of the meeting, but briefly stepped out." When asked about how long the meeting lasted, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said "about 45 minutes." (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was asked if Administrator Pruitt met with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) from the National Mining Association prior to the speaking engagement, to which (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) responded that there was no pre-meeting.

When asked if Administrator Pruitt discussed anything related to the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated not to know for sure if anything was mentioned about the topic. When asked if (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) recalls what Administrator Pruitt's speech was about, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that Administrator Pruitt did not have a speech prepared, but he did have talking points which were prepared by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). When asked to provide more information about the talking points, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated not to have an exact recollection of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) the Administrator, and added that in general Administrator Pruitt talked about "returning the agency to its core mission, process and cooperation." (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) added that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) does not know for sure if Administrator Pruitt mentioned anything about the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

As the interview progressed, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was asked again if Administrator Pruitt met with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) from the National Mining Association separate from the speaking engagement, at which point (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) recalled that there was a post-meeting between Administrator Pruitt and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) the National Mining Association, and that this meeting was attended by a group (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) from the National Mining Association. When asked (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) knows the names of the attendees, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said, the only name (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) recalls is (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and added that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA would know the rest of the names. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) also said that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) at the EPA was present for the meeting, as well as (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). When asked if during the private meeting Administrator Pruitt had with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) the National Mining Association he mentioned anything about the Paris Climate Change Agreement, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) responded that the topic was briefly discussed, however, Administrator Pruitt limited himself to explaining his position on the topic. According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) "there was no call" from Administrator Pruitt to the miners to pressure the president into withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. When asked to expand on what exactly Administrator Pruitt said his position was concerning the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) said, "the Administrator's position is that withdrawing is a good thing." According to

CASE: 01-HQ-2018-ADM-  
0039

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DATE OF ACTIVITY:  
4/12/2018

DRAFTED DATE: 4/13/2018

AGENT:

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RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Page 2 of 3

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Administrator Pruitt believes "it was an unfair deal for our country" and that "the President did the right thing." (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) uttered, "this is what he says now." (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) later said that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) does not recall if that is exactly what Administrator Pruitt said during the meeting with the miners.

SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) asked (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) the following specific questions:

On April 24, 2017, Mr. Pruitt attended a meeting with the National Miners Association in Naples Florida. During said meeting, did Mr. Pruitt suggest to the National Miners Association to support the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Agreement?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) response "Not to my recollection."

Did you hear Mr. Pruitt ask any of the National Miners Association members to pressure the President into withdrawing from the Paris Climate Change Agreement?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) response "no."

During said meeting, did you suggest to the National Miners Association to support the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Agreement?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) response "no."

Did you hear any EPA employee who attended said meeting to suggest to the National Mining Association that they should support or pressure the President into withdrawing from the Paris Climate Change Agreement?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) response "no."

As (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had not further information to share the interview was concluded.

CASE: 01-HQ-2018-ADM-0039

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RESTRICTED INFORMATION  
Page 3 of 3

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